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EUROPE-AFRICA

4. AFGHANISTAN: Soviet demands for oil feared--Embassy Ankara reports that the Afghan Ambassador to Turkey (a former Foreign Minister and Ambassador to Moscow) expects that the Soviets will bring pressure and make demands on Afghanistan for oil concessions. The Afghan envoy points out that the Soviet-Iranian oil agreement permits exploitation by the joint company to the Afghan border, though it excludes zones along the Turkish and Iraqi frontiers.

5. IRAN: Kurdish-Azerbaijani agreement reported--Kurdish officials have told Acting US Consul, Tabriz, that (a) Kurdish-Azerbaijani negotiations have resulted in "complete agreement," (b) Kurdish aims for "home rule within the Iranian nation" are identical with those of the Azerbaijani, (c) no negotiations are under way or have been proposed between the Iranian Central Government and the Kurds, but that the Azerbaijani delegation which is leaving for Tehran to negotiate with Qavam would also negotiate for the Kurds, and (d) if Qavam is "sincere" in his promises of democracy for Iran, the "Kurdish problem is already solved."

Kurdish dissatisfaction with Soviet treatment--Consul Rossow has been told by a Kurdish chief that the Kurds are dissatisfied with recent treatment at Soviet hands and feel they have been "let down." The Soviets recently instructed Kurdish leaders to report to Tabriz for a conference, and told them that (a) the USSR "wanted no trouble between the Kurds and the Azerbaijanis, and (b) border regions between "entirely Kurdish" and "entirely Azerbaijani" areas are to be jointly administered. The Kurdish source declared that the Soviets gave the Azerbaijanis "everything--tanks, guns and cannon --while they gave the Kurds only rifles."

6. BULGARIA: Increase of Soviet forces in southern and western frontier zones--US Mission Sofia reports persistent rumors of augmented Soviet forces in the southern and western frontier zones. The local press states that travel in these zones without special permission is forbidden. Soviet authorities have refused to permit State Department officials to proceed by road to Greece with US military escort.

7. BELGIUM: Soviet wheat "might" be available--Admiral Kirk now reports that the first move to provide Belgium with Soviet wheat was made by the Belgians, rather than by the Soviet Ambassador, as he had

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reported earlier [redacted] The Soviet Ambassador told Spaak that a shipment was at present impossible, but left the impression that if the Belgian Communists made a request--at a time when shipment would be politically advantageous to the Soviets--wheat might be forthcoming.

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8. BELGIUM: Spaak's view of French MRP Party's future--According to Embassy Brussels, Spaak believes that the MRP Party in France will lose many votes to the Right in the June elections, and therefore Bidault's future as Foreign Minister is "uncertain." Spaak does not expect, however, that a Communist will be given the post.
9. FRANCE: Soviet action in CFM aids French Communists--According to Caffery, French political circles interpret Soviet agreement to French participation in the Balkan discussions of the Conference of Foreign Ministers as an attempt to aid the French Communist Party. This reversal of position is "another indication of the importance Moscow attaches to Communist success in the coming French elections."
10. THE VATICAN: Resumption of diplomatic relations with Austria--According to the US representative, the Austrian Government has proposed a resumption of diplomatic relations with the Holy See on the same basis as existed prior to the Nazi occupation, providing the Allies concur. The Vatican desires that an official proceed as soon as practicable to Vienna to prevent Soviet seizure of its property.

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